Michigan Department of Licensing and Regulatory Affairs

VIDEO DISPLAY TERMINALS (VDTs) AND IONIZING RADIATION

Radiation Safety Section

Although study continues into the possible effects of VDTs on humans, a number of studies have been concluded. The conclusions by several key organizations and publications involved in VDT health studies follow:

- Based on the radiation survey at the three sites and previous National Institute for Occupational Safety and Health (NIOSH) investigations, it can be concluded that the VDT does not present a radiation hazard to the employees working at or near the terminals.

  U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, National Institute for Occupational Safety and Health, June 1981, Publication No. 81-129, Potential Health Hazards of Video Display Terminals.

- Radiation emitted by VDTs is insufficient to cause spontaneous abortions, birth defects, or any other adverse effect on reproductive functions.

  American College of Obstetricians and Gynecologists in testimony before the U.S. House of Representatives, May 8, 1984.

- There is no occupational exposure standard specifically for VDTs. However, all measurements of radiation omissions from VDTs are far below the present national occupational exposure guidelines. We do not find VDTs to be a source of dangerous radiation.

  Statement of J. Donald Miller, M.D., Director NIOSH, before the Subcommittee on Health and Safety, Committee on Education and Labor, U.S. House of Representatives, May 15, 1984.

- Results of testing 67 different makes of VDTs with extremely sensitive laboratory equipment show no difference whether the VDT is switched on or off. At only 5 cm from a VDT, the annual effective dose equivalent is less than 0.002 mrem.

  Radiation Protection Bureau, Ottawa, Ontario, Canada in an article published in the February 1984 issue of Health Physics.

- Based on published survey information received to date and on our studies of over 500 terminals, it appears that the use of video display terminals does not pose an ionizing radiation exposure hazard for employees and does not contribute significantly to an individuals overall radiation dose.

  Michigan Department of Public Health
  Division of Radiological Health, July 1985